Hyderabad on 24th December, 1996 has been completed; if so, the findings thereof; and

(b) if not, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) The Court of Inquiry has commenced. The exact time for completion of the inquiry cannot be indicated.

Civilian killed in Jammu and Kashmir

1214. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1102 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th July, 1996 and state:

(a) whether records are available with Army Headquarters, regarding the civilians killed in Jammu and Kashmir at the hands of both the army personnel and the terrorists since 1990;

(b) if so, the details of the civilians killed in Jammu and Kashmir since 1990; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Records of casualties in terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir are maintained by civil authorities. As per available information, 7163 civilians lost their lives from 1990 till 31st January, 1997.

Defence Equipment Procurement Clause

1215. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government had decided to introduce a clause in every final contract for defence equipment procurements requiring all principals to disclaim using or retaining any agent or representative in India; and

(b) whether the above clause is applied in the case of equipments purchased by Government through the Defence Public Sector Undertakings, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) The existing instructions debar agents in the procurement of weapons and weapon systems and prohibit their intercession in the procurement, induction and acquisition of weapons and weapon systems. Contracts concluded with foreign manufacturers carry a clause to this effect. This Clause has, now, been made more stringent by including the stipulation that in case, it is discovered that the seller had paid commission to any agent, the company would be liable to refund the amount to the Government and to face appropriate penal action as per our policy. These instructions have been made applicable to the Defence Public Sector Undertakings, also.

Selection Standards for Entry into NDA

1216. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that selection standards for entry into the National Defence Academy and Military Academy have been lowered recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this is likely to affect the efficiency of the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Illegal Construction in Hyderabad Cantonment

1217. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh High Court have given directions to stop illegal constructions forthwith in cantonment areas of Hyderabad and Secunderabad; and